

Injury Prevention Network Region IX Newsletter

Summer 2003 Number 10

IN THIS ISSUE:

Updates from California
National News of Interest
Upcoming Conferences and Events

*Don't forget to
send your
updates for the
Fall 2003
newsletter!*

UPDATES: CALIFORNIA

California Emergency Medical Services News

EMS for Children (EMSC)

Through funding from the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) an EMSC Pacific Region has been formed. It includes EMSC representatives from Alaska, California, Guam, Hawaii, and Oregon. The first regional meeting was held on June 25-26, 2003 in Corvallis, Oregon.

Rural Automated External Defibrillator (AED) Funding

EMS is applying for a grant from the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) to provide funds for training and implementation of AED programs in eligible rural areas.

EMTs and Paramedics

Four separate regulation packages will be available for public comment on July 3, 2003. These cover Paramedics, EMT-Is, Quality Improvement, and Continuing Education for EMS personnel. These proposed regulations will be available on our website (www.emsa.ca.gov).

One of the recommendations in the revised EMT-I regulations will be the use of "Mark I" antidote kits by EMT-I's for treating patients exposed to chemical terrorist events/attacks. Paramedics are already permitted to use them on patients. More information will be available on our website.

Upcoming CEMSA Commission Meeting Agenda

Several items are on the June 11, 2003 EMS commission meeting agenda (meeting to be held in Los Angeles; the full agenda is on our website). Agenda items of interest include:

Approval of Ambulance Strike Team guidelines. The EMS Authority, together with the Governor's Office of Emergency Services (OES), representatives from California Ambulance Association, Emergency Medical Services Administrators Association of California, FIREScope, and the California Fire Chiefs Association, has worked to create this resource as a vital part of the State's response to disasters, including our Homeland Defense efforts. This disaster medical response system would process and provide supplemental ambulances and personnel to "impacted counties" whose resources are overwhelmed by an emergency.

The Paramedic Interfacility Transport Program Guidelines, which recommend a system of ensuring that the transport of patients between medical facilities operates efficiently and effectively. The Interfacility Task Force recently finalized the guidelines. A public comment period will be announced in the coming months, and the guidelines should be completed in September or December of this year.

Approval of the Disaster Medical Systems Standards and Guidelines. The proposed guidelines recently went through a 60-day pre-public comment period. The goal of the Disaster Medical Systems Standards and Guidelines is facilitating disaster medical preparation and response among local EMS agencies. These guidelines as well as the new draft guidelines for the Ambulance Strike Team are available at: www.emsa.ca.gov/dms2/dms2.asp.

CEMSA Website Award

The CEMSA website (www.emsa.ca.gov) was chosen as "Featured Web Site of the Month for June" by the EMS Village. The award states: "The official State of California Emergency Medical Services Authority web site. A very well organized site with tons of useful information for all EMS providers. Kudos: The editors of EMS Village feel that the CEMSA web site reflects a State's commitment to the EMS industry. There is just so much useful information here for providers both in state and out of state that we can't list it all here. Go check it out!"

Reducing Impaired Driving and Increasing Seat Belt Use among Youth of Color

Through a National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) contract, Prevention Institute has initiated a project aiming to reduce impaired driving and increase seat belt use among youth of color in California. Prevention Institute is currently gathering data and information about youth attitudes and effective interventions to improve traffic safety outcomes among African American, Latino, and Native American youth, who are disproportionately affected by motor vehicle-related injury. If you know of effective traffic safety programs reaching youth, particularly youth of color, we would love to hear from you! Please contact Danice Cook at danice@preventioninstitute.org, or by phone at (510) 444-7738.

NATIONAL NEWS OF INTEREST

National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) News

NHTSA 2003 Report on Safety Belts and Teens

NHTSA recently released a report on safety belts and teens. The report highlights non-seat belt use as a key reason behind the high rates of motor vehicle related fatalities among teens. The report also touches on the importance of strong safety belt laws, safety belt enforcement programs, and organizational support as approaches to increase seat belt use among teens. The full report is accessible at:

<http://www.nhtsa.dot.gov/people/injury/airbags/buckleplan/buasbteens03/index.htm>

National Council of Negro Women Convene Forum on Safety Belt Use Within the African American Community

U.S. Transportation Secretary Norman Y. Mineta and Dr. Dorothy I. Height, Chair of the National Council of Negro Women, convened a major forum last month in Washington, DC on African American safety belt use. The event, known as The Leadership Forum on Increasing Safety Belt Use in the African American Community, recognized increases in seat belt use among African Americans and sought to bring about continual increases. Participants of the forum recognized gains made since the Blue Ribbon Panel to Increase Seat Belt Use Among African Americans findings were published in 2000. In addition, the forum strengthened support among African American organizations for primary safety belt laws, public education, and law enforcement initiatives. For more information, visit:

<http://www.nhtsa.dot.gov/nhtsa/announce/press/pressdisplay.cfm?year=2003&filename=pr23-03.html>

May 2003 National Click it or Ticket Mobilization focused on teens

The national Click or Ticket Mobilization campaign was viewed as a huge success last month. The two-week campaign was specifically designed to target teens and young adults who have the highest rates of motor vehicle related fatalities. More than 12,000 law enforcement agencies in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico conducted safety belt checkpoints and other special law enforcement activities as part of the campaign. NHTSA and the Air Bag & Seat Belt Safety Campaign of the National Safety Council in conjunction with law enforcement agencies and hundreds of traffic safety organizations nationwide conduct the national Click It or Ticket campaign in May and November. For more information, visit:

http://www.nhtsa.dot.gov/people/injury/airbags/clickit_ticke03/current.htm

Many teens view belt use as 'uncool,' VW poll finds

Volkswagen of America, Inc. conducted an informal poll of high school students and teachers from around the country and found that peer pressure and embarrassment are among the top reasons why teenagers don't wear seat belts. The poll was conducted as part of Volkswagen's "Fasten Your Seat Belt...Go Far" initiative to educate teens about the importance of wearing seat belts. For more information, visit:

http://buckleupamerica.org/news/news_services.php?id=82

UPCOMING CONFERENCES AND EVENTS

29th International Forum on Traffic Records and Highway Information Systems

Date: July 13-17, 2003

Location: Denver Marriott Tech Center – Denver, Colorado

For more information, contact:

National Safety Council

Web: <http://www.nsc.org/TrafficRecordsForum/index.htm>

American Driver and Traffic Safety Education Association Conference

Date: July 27-30, 2003

Location: Hilton Hotel University Place – Charlotte, NC

For more information, contact:

American Driver and Traffic Safety Education Association

Web: http://adtsea.iup.edu/adtsea/Conf/2003_conf.htm

17th Annual Conference on Childhood Injury

Date: September 22-24, 2003

Location: Radisson at Los Angeles Airport – Los Angeles, CA

For more information, contact:

Center for Injury Prevention Policy and Practice

San Diego State University, Graduate School of Public Health

6505 Alvarado Road, Suite 208

San Diego, CA 92120

Phone: (619) 594-3691

Web: <http://www.cipp.org/2003/conf03.htm>

6th Annual EMS Conference

Date: November 6, 2003

Location: Radisson Hotel - Sacramento, CA

For more information, contact:

California EMS Authority

1930 9th Street

Sacramento, CA 95814

Phone: (916) 322-4336

Web: http://www.emsa.ca.gov/emsddivision/emsc_postcard.doc

American Public Health Association (APHA) 131st Annual Meeting & Exposition

Date: November 15-19, 2003

Location: San Francisco, CA

For more information, contact:

APHA

800 I Street, NW

Washington, DC 20001

Phone: (202) 777-2478

Web: <http://www.apha.org>